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BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

November 4, 2008

To the Board of Supervisors:

At its meeting of November 3, 2008, the Loudoun County Rural Economic Development Council voted unanimously to request the Board of Supervisors to amend the text of Zoning Ordinance section 5-626 so as to incorporate the following two principles:

- Delete all references to "Agricultural" and Horticultural" uses.

The REDC believes these uses do not pose a problem to anyone living near agricultural uses of this type included in section 5-626 in the same way an animal husbandry use might. In addition, a parcel of just two or three acres is large enough for a crop or garden operation that would yield worthwhile amounts of food and/or money to its owners.

- Eliminate any reference to parcel size.

The REDC believes the 5-acre restriction contained in section 5-626 has a chilling effect on small agricultural operations, a dynamic growth area of Loudoun's agricultural landscape. Besides this, it has a negative impact on families living on a few acres whose children want to raise animals in a 4-H project.

The REDC wishes to advance the interests of agriculture in Loudoun in all reasonable ways. Basically, the REDC members think a parcel size restriction as set out in section 5-626 is unnecessary and counter-productive to the preservation of farming in the county and would like to see this barrier to small-scale agriculture removed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doug Fabboli, Chair, REDC